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(72) Inventors; and

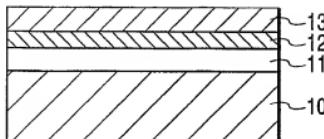
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(54) Title: STRUCTURED MATERIAL, MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM UTILIZING THE SAME, AND MAGNETIC RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: ABSTRACT The invention provides a structured material composed by including a noble metal, in which an oriented layer is formed on a layer containing a Group 4A metal. The invention enables to form an oriented layer, which has required a high temperature for formation, by a low temperature process.

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DESCRIPTION

STRUCTURED MATERIAL, MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM
UTILIZING THE SAME, AND MAGNETIC
5 RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a structured material having an oriented layer, which is more 10 specifically adapted for use for example in a vertical magnetic recording medium or the like.

BACKGROUND ART

An oriented film of a noble metal is currently 15 attracting attention, for controlling an orientation of a recording layer in a vertical magnetic recording medium for the next generation, or as an electrode layer or an undercoat layer for controlling an orientation of a ferroelectric oxide in a 20 ferroelectride oxide device. In particular, a (001) oriented layer of Pt, Pd or Ir is considered important.

However, it is already known that a thin film of such noble metals tends to show the (111) 25 orientation in a sputtering method usually executed at the room temperature and in the argon atmosphere, regardless of the substrate material. Consequently

it is difficult to easily obtain a (001) oriented film of a noble metal.

There have been found several ways to obtain a (001) oriented noble metal film. A non-patent 5 reference 1 (Kenji Iijima et al., J. Appl. Phys., 60(1), p.361, 1 July 1986) describes that a Pt (001) oriented film can be obtained on a MgO (001) substrate by elevating the substrate temperature to 600°C and adding oxygen by 50% in an argon gas used 10 as a sputtering gas.

However, the aforementioned technology relating to the oriented film requires to elevate the substrate temperature in the manufacturing process. Therefore the present invention provides a novel 15 oriented film and a production method thereof, not requiring a high temperature of the substrate.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a structured 20 material composed by including a noble metal, comprising an oriented film provided on a layer containing a Group 4A metal.

The present invention also provides a magnetic recording medium including, on a substrate and in 25 order from the substrate side, a MgO (001) layer, a layer containing a Group 4A metal, an oriented layer and a recording layer.

The present invention also provides a method for producing a structured material, comprising a first step of preparing a member having an MgO (001) layer, a second step of forming a layer containing a 5 Group 4A metal on the MgO (001) layer, and a third step of forming an oriented layer composed by including a noble metal on the layer containing the Group 4A metal.

The present invention further provides a 10 magnetic head capable of conducting magnetic recording on a magnetic recording medium including, on a substrate and from the side thereof, a MgO (001) layer, a layer containing a Group 4A metal, an oriented layer and a recording layer, and a magnetic 15 recording/reproducing apparatus provided with a magnetic head drive section for driving such magnetic head.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing an embodiment of a noble metal oriented layer of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic view showing a magnetic recording medium utilizing a noble metal oriented 25 layer;

Figs. 3A and 3B are schematic view of a recording layer;

Fig. 4 is a conceptual view showing a magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus; and

Fig. 5 is a conceptual view of an information processing apparatus.

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BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

(First embodiment: oriented layer)

Now, an oriented layer of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 1. Fig. 1
10 is a schematic view showing the configuration of a structured material of the present invention.

An oriented layer 13 of the invention, composed by including a noble metal, is characterized in that it is provided on a MgO (001) layer 11 through a
15 Group 4A metal containing layer 12. Such oriented layer 13, MgO layer 11 and Group 4A metal containing layer 12 may be collectively called a multi-layered film, a multi-layered functional film or a multi-layered oriented film.

20 Referring to Fig. 1, there are shown a substrate 10, a MgO (001) layer 11, an orientation control layer (layer containing a Group 4A metal) 12, and an oriented layer 13 composed by including a noble metal.

25 The substrate 10 may be arranged under the MgO layer according to the necessity, and may be composed of any material such as glass that can withstand

heating to about 250°C.

The MgO (001) layer 11 may be formed as a bulk member or a thin film. However, in case of a thin film, it is necessary to prepare a film having the 5 (001) orientation for example by sputtering. In case of utilizing a bulk member, it is naturally possible to dispense with the aforementioned substrate.

The orientation control layer (Group 4A metal layer) 12 preferably has a thickness of 0.1 to 3.0 nm, 10 particularly preferably 0.4 to 1.0 nm. Consequently, in case the orientation control layer (Group 4A metal layer) 12 is extremely thin, it may not be a complete film but can also be dispersed in an island shape or shaped as a pattern on the MgO (001) layer 11. Also 15 in the orientation control layer (Group 4A metal layer) 12, it is possible to employ Ti, Zr, Hf or a combination thereof. In particular, Ti is preferred. Also it may be formed in a multi-layered configuration.

20 Also for the noble metal oriented layer 13, it is possible to use Pt, Pd, Ir, Rh, Ag or a combination thereof. In particular, Pt or Pd is effective. A film formation by sputtering on the aforementioned orientation control layer (Group 4A 25 metal layer) 12 provides sufficient (001) orientation in case the temperature of the substrate is 250°C or higher.

Thus, the oriented layer of the present invention is characterized in that it can be sufficiently oriented at a temperature lower than 600°C, for example at a heating temperature range of 5 300°C or lower. Naturally an oriented state can be obtained also at a higher temperature range.

The degree of orientation of the noble metal oriented layer 13 is indicated by the intensity ratio of X-ray diffractions of Pt (002) and Pt (111). More 10 specifically it is represented by:

$$\text{Orientation degree (\%)} = 100 \times F_{\text{Pt}}(002) / [F_{\text{Pt}}(002) + F_{\text{Pt}}(111)] \quad [1]$$

The degree of orientation of the noble metal oriented layer of the present invention is not 15 particularly restricted as long as such oriented layer can be practically applied to a device utilizing such oriented layer, but it is preferred that the degree of orientation represented by the equation [1] is 99% or higher.

20 Also the noble metal oriented layer need not be composed singly of Pt, Pd, Ir, Rh or Ag, but may be formed by a mixture such as PtPd or may include other elements such as Ti, Zr, Hf etc. Also there may naturally be adopted a multi-layered configuration 25 containing such noble metal.

(Second embodiment: example of device configuration)

(Configuration of vertical magnetic recording medium utilizing noble metal oriented layer)

In the following an example of a vertical magnetic recording medium utilizing a noble metal 5 oriented layer will be explained with reference to Fig. 2.

A soft magnetic layer, a protective layer and a lubricant layer are preferably applied when necessary, and there will be explained a configuration 10 incorporating all these layers.

Referring to Fig. 2, there are shown a substrate 10, a soft magnetic layer 21, a MgO (001) layer 11, an orientation control layer (Group 4A metal layer) 12, a noble metal oriented film layer 13, 15 a recording layer 22, a protective layer 23, and a lubricant layer 24.

As the substrate 10, there can be employed a flat substrate such as a glass substrate or an aluminum substrate for a hard disk. The soft 20 magnetic layer 21 is required, in a vertical magnetic recording, in order to concentrate a magnetic field from a head to the recording layer 22. The layers 11 to 13 are utilized for attaining orientation of a hard magnetic material formed for example by $L1_0:CoPt$ 25 or $L1_0:FePt$ of the recording layer 22. The protective layer 23 and the lubricant layer 24 are utilized for improving resistance to the friction and the abrasion

between the head and the medium.

The soft magnetic layer 21 is preferably of a high magnetic permeability such as NiFe or FeCo, but, in consideration of noise generation resulting from 5 magnetic wall displacement, there is preferred a material capable of separating a magnetic member thereby to fix the magnetic wall, such as FeTaC.

Also the recording layer 22 is preferably orientation controlled by the effect of the oriented 10 film including the noble metal. Particularly in a production by an electroplating method, the effect of the oriented film including the noble metal is conspicuous. Also the recording layer 22 is preferably in a state in which a rod-shaped magnetic 15 material of a diameter of 3 to 10 nm is uniformly dispersed in a non-magnetic material. In such situation, the magnetic material is preferably composed of a material of a high vertical magnetic anisotropy such as $L1_0$:CoPt, $L1_0$:FePt etc. However, 20 as the magnetic material, there can also be conceived a multi-layered film of Co/Pt or Co/Pd in addition to $L1_0$:CoPt, $L1_0$:FePt etc., so that the foregoing examples are not restrictive but the high vertical magnetic anisotropy is an important factor. Also the 25 manufacture is not limited to the electroplating method, and there can also be employed a film formation in vacuum such as a sputtering method.

For the protective layer 23, resistance to abrasion is important, and a diamond-like carbon is useful. Also the film thickness is preferably as thin as possible within such an extent as not to 5 deteriorate the effect. Also the lubricant layer 24 is provided to attain smooth displacement between the head and the medium, and can be formed by applying a lubricant coat such as perfluoropolyether.

In the foregoing, there has been explained a 10 vertical magnetic recording medium utilizing the oriented layer of the present invention, but a functional element or a functional device having such oriented layer can be a functional element (so-called ferroelectric memory) provided with a ferroelectric 15 film (for example a ferroelectric film or a film of a high dielectric property having a perovskite structure or a layered structure such as of BT, PT, PZT or SBT) on such oriented layer.

Examples

20 (Example 1)

The present example employs Ti for the orientation control layer (Group 4A metal layer) and Pt and Pd as the noble metal, and shows an effect by incorporation of a Ti layer.

25 At first a MgO substrate was introduced in a sputtering apparatus, and the substrate was heated to 300°C. Argon was introduced from a basic pressure of

4.0 × 10⁻⁵ Pa, and after a reverse sputtering for 120 seconds with an RF power of 150 W and a pressure of 7.0 × 10⁻¹ Pa, a Ti film was formed with a thickness of 4.5 Å and an RF power of 150 W. Subsequently a Pt, 5 and Pd layers was formed with a thickness of 20 nm and an RF power of 300 W. On the other hand, there was also prepared a sample bearing a Pt and Pd layers prepared under the same conditions without forming the Ti layer. The Ti layer need not be a complete 10 film, and the described film thickness is a value when converted into a film.

Four samples with combination of presence or absence of the Ti layer and Pt and Pd layers were subjected to X-ray diffraction measurement to 15 calculate the degree of orientation of the Pt and Pd layers.

As a result, as shown in Table 1, either the Pt or Pd layer did not show the (002) diffraction in the absence of the Ti layer, and the degree of 20 orientation represented by the equation [1]:

degree of orientation [%] = 100 × F(002)/[F(002) +
F(111)]
was 0 %. On the other hand, in the presence of the
Ti layer, both layers had a high degree of
25 orientation exceeding 99%.

Table 1

	Orientation (%) of Pt layer	Orientation (%) of Pd layer
Ti layer present	0 %	0 %
Ti layer absent	99.4 %	99.1 %

(Example 2)

This examples shows how an orientation of a noble metal, particularly Pt, is possible at low 5 temperatures.

A MgO substrate was introduced in a sputtering apparatus, and the substrate was heated with four temperature conditions of room temperature, 200°C, 250°C and 300°C. At each temperature, as in Example 1, 10 argon was introduced from a back pressure of 4.0×10^{-5} Pa, and, after a reverse sputtering for 120 seconds with an RF power of 150 W and a pressure of 7.0×10^{-1} Pa, a Ti film was formed with a thickness of 4.5 Å and an RF power of 150 W. Subsequently a Pt 15 layer was formed with a thickness of 20 nm and an RF power of 300 W.

An X-ray diffraction measurement was conducted in order to confirm whether these films were oriented.

As a result, as shown in Table 2, the degree of 20 orientation (%) at each temperature was calculated by the equation [1]:

$$\text{degree of orientation [%]} = 100 \times F(002) / [F(002) + F(111)].$$

Table 2

	room temp.	200°C	250°C	300°C
degree of orientation (%)	0 %	29.1 %	99.3 %	99.4 %

From these results, it was confirmed that the degree of orientation changed significantly between 200°C and 250°C, and that the orientation was 99% or 5 higher at about 250°C or higher. The above-mentioned temperature is a temperature of the substrate, but can be considered substantially equal to the temperature of the Group A4 metal layer.

(Example 3)

10 This example relates to a magnetic recording medium utilizing the aforementioned noble metal oriented film.

At first there was prepared a glass substrate for a hard disk, on which a soft magnetic layer was 15 formed with a thickness of 300 nm and a MgO (001) layer was formed thereon with a thickness of 3 nm. Then a Ti layer of a thickness of 0.45 nm and a Pt layer of a thickness of 5 nm were formed under the sputtering conditions of the substrate temperature of 20 250°C in Example 2, thereby obtaining a noble metal oriented film.

Also a film of a thickness of 25 nm, in which cylinders of L1₀:FePt dispersed in silicon oxide as shown in Figs. 3A and 3B, was formed thereon as a

recording layer, and a protective film of diamond-like carbon of a thickness of 3 nm and a lubricant layer of perfluoropolyether were applied. The cylinders of $\text{L1}_0:\text{FePt}$ in the recording layer had a 5 diameter of 5 to 6 nm. The recording layer was formed by a method of electroplating with FePt the silicon oxide film with fine pores of 5 to 6 nm utilizing Pt of the noble metal oriented film as an electrode layer, and then executing thermal treatment 10 to obtain a finely dispersed cylinders of $\text{L1}_0:\text{FePt}$. In this method, because of the effect of the noble metal oriented film, the cylinders of $\text{L1}_0:\text{FePt}$ were also oriented in the (001) direction.

A similar medium was also prepared utilizing a 15 Pt layer of (111) orientation instead of the noble metal oriented film. In this case, the cylinders of $\text{L1}_0:\text{FePt}$ were oriented in the (111) direction.

There were also prepared samples without the 20 soft magnetic layer, respectively for $\text{Pt}(001)$ and $\text{Pt}(111)$.

At first, in a comparison of the samples having only the recording layer without the soft magnetic layer, the sample utilizing the noble metal oriented film of Pt (001) showed a high vertical magnetic 25 anisotropy in the direction perpendicular to the substrate, with a squareness ratio of 0.95 in an M-H curve, but the sample utilizing the Pt (111) film

showed a squareness ratio of about 0.5 in the M-H curve, both in the in-plate and in the vertical directions. It was therefore confirmed that the sample employing the noble metal oriented film of Pt 5 (001) was usable as a vertical magnetic recording medium.

Also when the samples having the soft magnetic layer are subjected to recording by bringing it into contact with a magnetic head, vertical magnetic 10 recording can be confirmed in the sample utilizing the noble metal oriented film of Pt (001) and having the vertical magnetic anisotropy by observation with a magnetic force microscope. It can therefore be confirmed that the vertical magnetic recording medium, 15 utilizing the noble metal oriented film of Pt (001) etc. is effective.

However, the formation of the recording layer is not limited to the method explained in the foregoing, but can also be attained for example by 20 sputtering a multi-layered film of Co/Pt or Co/Pd in an oriented state on a noble metal oriented film. It is also possible to form a granular film of $L1_0$:FePt or $L1_0$:CoPt.

(Example 4)

25 This example provides a magnetic recording apparatus of a configuration as schematically shown in Fig. 4.

In the medium of the present invention, a magnetic material in the recording layer is oriented by the noble metal oriented film, and information can be recorded by the magnetizing direction of a plurality of cylindrical magnetic materials.

Therefore, a magnetic recording apparatus can be constructed by incorporating the recording medium of the present invention in an apparatus including a magnetic medium driving section 42, a magnetic head 43, a magnetic head drive section 44 and a signal processing section 45. However, the present example does not limit the drive of the magnetic recording medium to a rotational motion only, nor the drive of the magnetic head to a circumferential sliding motion only.

(Example 5)

The present example relates to an information processing apparatus.

Since the magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus described in Example 4 is capable of information input and output, it is possible to construct an information processing apparatus including, within a casing 51, the aforementioned magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus section 52, a memory section 54, a processing section 53, an external input/output section 56, a power source 55 and connecting wirings 57. Also it is naturally

possible to construct an information processing apparatus by externally (or internally) connecting the aforementioned magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus with a computer including a CPU.

5 . . . The present invention allows to provide, in forming a noble metal oriented layer including a noble metal and having a (001) orientation, an oriented layer which can be formed at a low temperature less than 600°C by providing a layer
10 including a Group 4A metal.

CLAIMS

1. A structured material composed by including a noble metal, comprising an oriented layer formed on a layer containing a Group 4A metal.

5

2. The structured material according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the Group 4A metal is provided on a MgO (001) layer.

10 3. The structured material according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the Group 4A metal has a thickness within a range of from 0.1 to 3.0 nm.

15 4. The structured material according to claim 1, wherein said noble metal is Pt, Pd, Ir, Rh, Ag or a combination thereof.

20 5. The structured material according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the Group 4A metal is a Ti layer, a Zr layer, a Hf layer or a layer constituted of a combination of these metals.

25 6. The structured material according to claim 2, wherein said layer containing the Group 4A metal is dispersed in the shape of islands on said MgO (001) layer.

7. A magnetic recording medium characterized in including, on a substrate and in order from the substrate side, a MgO (001) layer, a layer containing a Group 4A metal, an oriented layer, and a recording 5 layer.

8. A magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus comprising:

a magnetic head capable of a conducting 10 magnetic recording on a magnetic recording medium comprising, on a substrate and in order from the substrate side, a MgO (001) layer, a layer containing a Group 4A metal, an oriented layer, and a recording layer; and

15 a magnetic head driving section for driving said magnetic head.

9. A method for producing a structured material comprising:

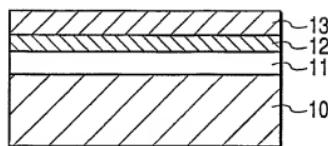
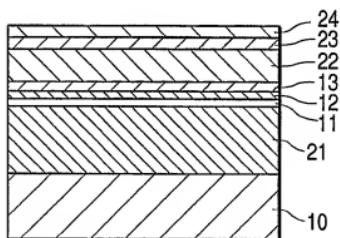
20 a first step of preparing a member having a MgO (001) layer;

a second step of forming a layer containing a Group 4A metal on said MgO (001) layer; and

25 a third step of forming an oriented layer composed by containing a noble metal on said layer containing the Group 4A metal.

10. The method for producing a structured material according to claim 9, wherein said third step is executed with the temperature of said layer containing the Group 4A metal being equal to or
5 higher than 250°C but lower than 600°C.

1 / 3

FIG. 1*FIG. 2*

2 / 3

FIG. 3A

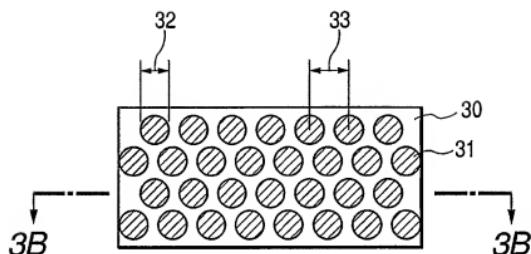
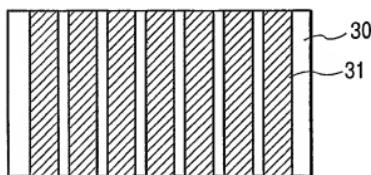


FIG. 3B



3 / 3

FIG. 4

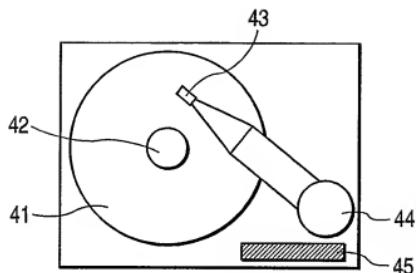
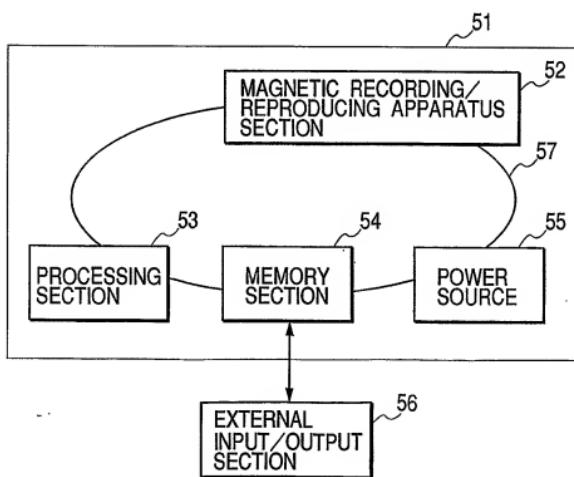


FIG. 5



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G11B5/64 C23C14/02 C23C28/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G11B C23C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, PAJ, WPI Data, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	US 2002/086186 A1 (LEE) 4 July 2002 (2002-07-04) page 1, paragraph 4	1,4,5
Y	page 1, paragraph 11 - paragraph 13 page 2, paragraph 24 page 2, paragraph 28 page 3, paragraph 37; figure 2A ---	2,3,6-9
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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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